

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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A Grave Problem

While the accounts of the province for the last fiscal year reveal a surplus on current account of \$184,467, there was a debt increase of about four and a half million dollars as against the estimated increase of \$1,729,464, showing a very considerable margin of error in the Government's calculations at the last legislative session, and a very considerable addition to our total liabilities, whatever these will prove to be when the figures come down.

We need not labor the seriousness of the situation, nor would it serve any purpose to discuss it on a partisan basis in these columns. The fact is that we are caught up in a vicious circle of needed expenditures far in excess of the revenues at our disposal. Our obligations in this respect are growing, and it is little comfort to be told that of late there has been a marked shift of income tax and succession duty revenues from Ottawa to the provinces, which we should take advantage of.

Some of the provinces have indeed benefited by getting a larger share of these tax yields, and are happy about it. It will enable Ontario, for example, to spend \$1,460 million on net and capital accounts this year, with no tax-boosts required. Saskatchewan has been able to cut its sales tax from 5 to 4 per cent, farmers have been given more liberal use of gasoline, and a number of nuisance taxes have been eliminated. The government there is giving up some \$14 million in revenue because it can afford to. In British Columbia, the 1958-59 budget proposes to increase expenditures 12.7 per cent above this year's level, while forecasting a surplus. Nova Scotia, too, has announced record-breaking spending and revenues, leaving a surplus of \$94 million without any new taxes or any increase in old ones.

Why cannot we benefit by this shift of federal revenues to the provinces in like manner? The reason has been stressed in every brief we have presented at fiscal conferences in recent years. We simply haven't got the tax collection potential in the fields that Ottawa is relinquishing. We need a rational system for equalizing this potential across the nation; and this, we claim, is what federal tax revenues—being the result of the collective effort of all citizens of Canada—should do.

Isn't there common ground here on which members on both sides in our Legislature could meet; enough at least to justify a joint resolution setting forth, once again, our just grievance and the need for settling it on the basis of fiscal need?

A Sorry Showing

Attorney-General Farmer is an experienced parliamentarian, and should know that when he is quoted by the press in the Legislature and exception is taken to a statement attributed to him, he has the duty of either confirming it or repudiating it as a misquotation. In the incident that arose in the House on Wednesday, when the Opposition demanded that he retract a statement derogatory to the Liberal Party, Mr. Farmer took neither of these courses. He appears to have been in full agreement with the reported statement, but he argued that there was "nothing to show" except a newspaper record that he had ever made it.

We take exception to this attitude, and we are surprised that the minister was not called to task for it by the Speaker. So far as we are concerned, Mr. Farmer's statement was one which we would not think of making on our own, or of publishing except as part of the record of the legislative proceedings. Members are privileged to make statements in the House which could get them into

trouble elsewhere, and the press is privileged—and indeed obligated—to report them as accurately as possible. The press has always sought to keep in mind the limitations of the privilege it shares in this regard.

In the present case, when the Speaker asked Mr. Farmer as to his intentions with regard to the statement attributed to him, he replied: "The press says it," plainly implying that if there was any retraction to be made it should come from that quarter. The minister's subsequent statements did nothing to convince the House that the press had erred in reporting him, but this was not the point. It still left in doubt a question about which there should have been no doubt whatever.

It may be, of course, that the minister didn't quite recall what he had said, and was not sure whether the words attributed to him were those he had actually used, despite the fact that he was in full accord with their general meaning. In that case, too, it was his duty to have said so—not try to raise a smoke-screen of press responsibility for their implications.

In the end, one Conservative member suggested that the Attorney General's remarks were on the "federal picture" and did not reflect on the provincial Liberal Party, and Mr. Speaker accepted this as having "cleared you honorable gentlemen—that's what we required."

With all due respect to the Speaker's office, we think his ruling fell lamentably short of what was required.

The Rivard Case

Chief Justice Dorion was instructed by Parliament to determine whether a bribe was offered for the release from prison of a man charged with narcotics trafficking, and whether the Minister of Justice was right or wrong in deciding that there was insufficient evidence for prosecution of the government employee alleged to have made the offer. It is the prisoner involved in this case, Lucien Rivard, whose sensational escape from Bordeaux Jail in Montreal has raised such a storm in Parliament and throughout the country.

Bordeaux is a provincially-operated institution, hence the claim by Justice Minister Favreau that the break is not a matter of federal responsibility. But there is no question, as Opposition Leader Diefenbaker said, that the incident has caused grave public concern. His motion that the Dorion inquiry terms be widened to include Rivard's escape was supported by other Opposition groups, and would seem to be well justified.

One question arises in this connection, however. The Dorion inquiry is now in its third month without any indication as to when or how it will end. As long as the commission sits a cloud of doubt hangs over the nation's public life. A decision on the main issues should not be delayed longer than necessary, nor should it be contingent on making any review of the Rivard escape incident. It might be more expeditious, in the circumstances, for Parliament to authorize a new court of inquiry into this matter.

Rivard is believed to be in hiding in Montreal, and he may be recaptured at any time. He has had the termity to send a letter to the governor of Bordeaux jail "apologizing for the trouble" caused by his escape, and denying that he and his associate had used any violence or had robbed one of the guards of some money, as reported. This fantastic document, read by Attorney General Wagner in the Quebec Legislature yesterday, doesn't throw light on how the escape was engineered, nor would it be of much value as evidence if it did. But it adds a comic opera touch to the affair—or would it if the matter weren't of such disturbing implications.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Saskatchewan is becoming industrialized at a rapid pace. Now it has been announced that the world's largest heavy-water plant will be built in Estevan at a cost of \$46 million.

The cost of new homes in Canada, notes an Ontario exchange, has been rising more than twice as fast as the increase in the general cost of living and, unfortunately, it is a trend that seems bound to continue. At the end of last summer the average price across the country of a new NHA-financed bungalow was \$15,936 compared to an average price of \$14,777 two years before. That amounted to a 7.8 per cent boost. In the same period the general consumer price index calculated by the Bureau of Statistics advanced by only 3.5 per cent.



CROP FAILURE

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Taxpayers Benefiting By Glasco Report

Great hopes that the taxpayer's pocket would benefit were expressed when the Royal Commission on Government Organization was set up in September 1960. Its instructions were to recommend changes "which would best promote efficiency, economy and improved service in the despatch of public business."

Under what the then prime minister termed its "energetic and able" chairman, Mr. J. Grant Glasco, the commission launched a mammoth study of the administrative methods of our immense bureaucracy. Within two years, on July 18 1962, the "speedy" commission submitted its first report; seven months later it presented its fifth and final volume of recommendations. Between these two dates, a "Bureau of Government Organization" had been set up under the supervision of Senator Wallace McCutcheon, to comb through the Glasco proposals and to implement them where and as deemed practical.

Five of these recommendations were accepted by the previous government before its fall. 18 months later, the present government announced that 68 more had been approved. Last week Hon. George McRith, President of the Privy Council, listed another 27 recommendations as accepted. This brings to the round total of one hundred the number of Glasco money-saving and efficiency-producing proposals which have been adopted by the government.

This action in implementing the proposals by a royal commission fittingly matches the speed and efficiency of that commission. In stark contrast is the way various governments have swung under the carpet recommendations by other needed, able and costly royal commissions. For instance, the Royal Commission on Publications reported, on 15 June 1961, that steps should be taken to assist "inevitable competition," by foreign publications. On 22 January 1962, six months before the Glasco Commission reported, the then prime minister told Parliament that legislation would be introduced to that end, just as the Governor General had in fact announced four days previously in his speech from the Throne.

Three years have passed, two governments have held office, both have promised action, yet the recommendations of that O'Leary Commission have only gathered dust in some forgotten pigeonhole. PROPOSALS SOUND Mr. McRith says that surveys have been conducted to test certain of the Glasco recommendations, and they have not surprisingly—"confirmed their general validity."

No More Tolerable

Discovery of flourishing wild life on the Pacific atolls on and over which atomic weapons tests were carried out for several years is surprising and very interesting. It was thought that they were dead for an unknown period. But nuclear warfare is no less to be dreaded because of the proof that some kinds of life make their way back more quickly than had been supposed they could. It does not appear that permission for natives to return would be wise yet—if they wished to return. The extent of the damage done can easily be underestimated in the marvelling at what survived and re-established itself so soon. In the setting of a war, it would not be islands that had disappeared but the places where cities had stood. Eighteen generations of rats have passed

a result. These range from the introduction of a central electronic computer bureau to classes in French for civil servants; from the creation of one central government purchasing department to the compilation of an inventory of real estate owned by the government (why not before?); from building new Indian schools only in cases of long-term need to retelling the "chairman, chiefs of staff," from setting up a science secretariat to the Cabinet to making government publications more readily available through commercial booksellers; and generally they include the end of overlapping and make-work jobs.

It looks as if Mr. Grant Glasco would deserve a medal—if Canada had one to award him for achieving so much toward "promoting efficiency, economy and improved service in the despatch of public business" or, in plain words, in getting the lead out of bureaucratic pants.

Would Free Rudolf Hess

It will soon be 30 years since Germany collapsed in the nuclear cracker squeeze by the Commonwealth and American forces from one side and the Russians from the other. A year later Britain, the U.S., Russia and France set up their joint war criminals' Spandau Prison in West Berlin. Each in turn still takes over the guarding and patrol of the old fortress. It houses only three remaining prisoners. Two of them, Albert Speer, who was the munitions chief, and Hitler youth leader Baldur von Schirach, are due for release next year, at the end of their 30-year terms. Their departure will leave one inmate, Rudolf Hess, once Hitler's deputy, who is serving a life term. Hess has been in custody since 1941, when he stole a bomber

Pause For Reflection

At a time huge sums are going into preparations for a world's fair to celebrate 100 years of Confederation, along comes a royal commission report telling us that Canadian nationhood is threatened with catastrophe. After months of inquiry across the country, the commission has issued preliminary report speaking darkly of the danger of the country being split into irreconcilable fragments. The ominous words have stirred up no panic, but the apparent calm of the country should not be misconstrued as indifference. Whatever the degree of exaggeration in his report, it will make a poor impression on the countries that plan to participate in the World's Fair at Montreal in 1967. They may be pardoned for wondering exactly what cause Canada will have to celebrate two years hence. Who could blame them for wondering?

Unusual Senators

The late Senator John "Pete" Robertson was a railway man, one of the few ever appointed to the Senate. One of former Prime Minister Diefenbaker's appointments, he was an example of the type of hard-working "ordinary" person who plays an important role in a democratic nation's political life. A conductor, Senator Robertson nevertheless found the time to work long hours in behalf of his political party. Not only that but he ran for public office twice, once for the Commons, and once for the Ontario legislature.

Our Yesterdays

From the Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (March 5, 1940) W.G. Clark of Fredericton, N.B., was appointed Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, Premier Mackenzie King announced today. Fresh German troop and tank units were reported massing in border territory facing the Netherlands, as an angry public demanded vigorous Government action in protest against Nazi air attacks on defenceless Dutch ships. TEN YEARS AGO (March 5, 1958) Prince Charles went to his first rugby match—and kept his father busy answering questions. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh took their six-year-old son to the navy vs. army game at Twickenham. In a speech to a New Brunswick Teachers' Association dinner at Saint John, N.B., Dr. Frank MacKinnon, principal of Prince of Wales College, kicked off Education Week with a common-sense criticism of "strait-jacketed education."

New Herpes Vaccine

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Researchers at the Pasteur Institute have developed a vaccine against various forms of herpes. It has been successful in a small group of people and should bring a ray of hope to those so frequently annoyed with repeated attacks of herpes simplex (cold sores). These fragile blisters develop around the mouth and other body openings. They burn, itch, and are most unattractive when exuding a sticky serum or covered with crusts. Herpes simplex is a viral disease that goes deeper than appears on the surface. The original infection takes place in childhood but only 15 per cent develop fever blisters during the attack. We know this because laboratory tests show that protective antibodies develop in the blood at an early age. These antibodies are sufficient to protect some persons from recurrent attacks. In the majority, protection is minimal; the causative virus hibernates and comes to life when triggered by a cold, exposure to sunlight, injury, indigestion, menstruation, or emotional strain. Various foods may precipitate an attack. The causative virus usually remains in the same area, which explains why lesions recur on previously affected sites. The success of this new vaccine is not entirely dependent upon its ability to increase the number of antibodies. The poorly understood herpes triggering factor is involved and there is a possibility it may account for some of the failures. Repeated smallpox vaccinations also are used as a preventive. There is no logical reason why this works because the viruses causing these two disorders are unrelated. Idoxuridine cream (5-ITU) has been under investigation as a possible remedy for herpetic lesions. The results have been disappointing, even though some physicians report early relief of soreness and itching. In the majority of cases, 5-ITU has no effect on the rate of healing and probably is no better than other remedies for this purpose.

DAMP LUNGS

V. W. writes: What is meant by moisture of the lungs? REPLY In the strict sense, everyone has moisture in the lungs, which is easily demonstrated by blowing against a pane of glass. But the term often is used by physicians to denote excessive moisture or secretions. This disorder is found chiefly in tropical conditions, heart failure, or inflammation of the lungs. SUBWAY-SLEEPER A. K. writes: When I ride the subways to and from work, my eyes close and I become drowsy. This happens even though I get eight to nine hours sleep at night. REPLY How unusual. Most subway riders are boring unless the passenger reads a newspaper or a book. NAGGING SPOUSE J. B. writes: I have a spastic bowel caused by living for 31 years with a wife who keeps me upset constantly. Have you any suggestions? REPLY The first 100 years are the hardest. CERVICAL PLOYPMS Mrs. L. writes: Are ployps on the cervix likely to become malignant? REPLY They rarely become malignant but removal is recommended when they cause bleeding. EATING DOES IT T. D. writes: Is obesity due to disturbances of the glands? REPLY Yes, the salivary glands. TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Tuberculosis can be controlled. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Red Prestige At Stake

By Harold Morrison Canadian Press Staff Writer It may be too early to suggest that Uncle Sam is calling the red dragon's bluff, but persistent U.S. air strikes in North Viet Nam must raise the question of whether China is really ready and anxious to engage in a direct collision with American military power. With the largest land forces in the world and preparations under way for its second nuclear test, China's prestige as a world power is at stake as North Viet Nam takes an air heading day after day. Where is the massive Chinese action promised the North Vietnamese if their territory was hit by the "Yankee imperialists"? Outside of ground fire, the Americans appear to be meeting little air opposition. TOOK BIG GAMBLE Undoubtedly the decision to attack across the 17th parallel was a gigantic American gamble—an indication of how desperate the U.S. position must be in South Viet Nam. Or did the U.S. know something it did not tell? Both Soviet Premier Kossygin and China's Mao Tse-tung have made strong sympathetic gestures towards North Viet Nam's Ho Chi Minh. And undoubtedly Moscow and Peking are preparing to pour in huge amounts of arms and equipment to help the Communist-led Viet Cong throw the Americans and their Vietnamese "puppets" out of South Viet Nam. That likely is the reason why Hanoi has ordered the three-country international truce commission—Canada, India and Poland—to withdraw their observer posts from North Vietnamese territory outside of Hanoi. The North Vietnamese would rather not have witnesses to border crossings of outside military help. But now the American air strikes in northern territory have been continuing for some weeks. Why hasn't there been immediate and massive interceptor air defence? The Soviet position may be understandable. Kossygin is new and wants to move with extreme caution. After all, mainland China, North Viet Nam, North Korea, Albania and Romania did not turn up at the gathering of Communist parties in Moscow. And while those who did attend blasted the "barbarous bombings" in North Viet Nam, there seemed to be a lack of clarity as to what Moscow is going to do about it. Communist China is in a different position. Peking seemed in recent years just to be waiting for the chance to tangle with the Americans. Re-boasted of its power and rejected as cowardly the Nikita Khrushchev warning that American nuclear strength is more than that of a paper tiger. Yet in North Viet Nam the Americans are blasting away, sending out great squadrons of planes and losing only a few at a time from ground fire. The immediate reaction is that China at least appears to be slow in reacting and this can only encourage the Americans to inch farther into Red territory. The Appalachian Mountain range reaches from Canada's Gaspé Peninsula 1,600 miles south to central Alabama.

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Canadian Club of P.E.I. MONDAY, MARCH 8th—6:30 p.m. CHARLOTTETOWN HOTEL Speaker: Robt. F. Shaw Deputy Commissioner General of the Canadian Universal and International Exhibition, Montreal, 1967. TOPIC—"EXPO 1967"

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